

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of People and Places	Licensing and Public Safety Committee	14 December 2011

HACKNEY CARRIAGE PROPOSED FARE CHANGES

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To bring to the attention of Members a request from the Chorley Hackney Carriage Drivers for a change in hackney carriage fares which amounts to a slight decrease in the fares charged for Hackney Carriage journeys.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- That the Members consider the request for a fare change and consider any representations the Chorley Hackney Carriage Drivers may wish to make.
- That the proposed change in Hackney Carriage fares be agreed, subject to the necessary statutory Notice being advertised and no objections being received. Should any objections be received it is intended that they will be presented to the next meeting of the Licensing and Public Safety Committee for consideration.
- Should no objections be received Members are asked to set an implementation date of 9 January 2012 for the fare change to take effect.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- The Council has the power to set fares charged hackney carriage journeys and changes to the fare structure are usually considered following representations made by the hackney carriage trade or their representatives.
- Such a request for change in fares has been received and this report details the impact of that request and the administrative process for effecting any change in fares for hackney carriage journeys.

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Strong Family Support		Education and Jobs	
Being Healthy		Pride in Quality Homes and Clean Neighbourhoods	
Safe Respectful Communities		Quality Community Services and Spaces	X
Vibrant Local Economy	X	Thriving Town Centre, Local Attractions and Villages	X
A Council that is a consistently Top Performing Organisation and Delivers			

BACKGROUND

8. A written request for an increase in hackney carriage fare change was received by the Council on 13 September 2011. A copy of the written request is attached at Appendix A.
9. Under Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 the Council may fix fares for time and distance, and all other charges in connection with the hire of a hackney carriage.
10. Members will recall a report to the Licensing and Public Safety Committee in June 2011 where it was agreed to increase the hackney carriage fares following a request from the Hackney Carriage trade representative body BBBHA. The effect of the increase agreed has had an unintended consequence on the pricing of fares at the taxi meter in that charges for part mile journeys result in small change being required. In addition it is reported that the meter calibration using the current fare structure poses difficulties.
11. Therefore the hackney carriage trade representatives have consulted with a taxi meter calibration company and determined the proposed fare structure before Members in this report as providing a satisfactory solution.
12. A comparison table of the effect of a hackney fare change is attached to this report at Appendix B.
13. When the Council make or vary a table of fares we have to publish in at least one local newspaper a notice setting out the table of fares and proposed increases. This Notice must allow at least 14 days for objections to be made. In addition a copy of the Notice (Appendix C) must be available for viewing at Council offices at all reasonable hours free of charge.
14. If no objection to a table of fares or variations is made within the period specified in the Notice, or if all objections made are withdrawn, the table of fares or variations shall come into operation on the date of the expiration of the period specified in the notice or the date of withdrawal of the objection.
15. Hackney Carriage fares were last amended in June 2011 when the charge for the first 0.5 mile was increased from £2.20 to £2.30. At that time there was an increase imposed on the subsequent mileage or part thereof at a rate of £0.01p per one sixteenth of a mile. (from 10p to 11p per 1/16 mile)
16. Members should note that the last fare change request had the effect of making the cost of journeys require passengers and drivers to calculate fares involving small change and therefore handle 'coppers' (penny and twopence pieces). The revision ensures fares are rounded to the a minimum denomination of £0.05p.
17. A copy of the revised table of fares is attached as Appendix D.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

18. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance		Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal	X	Integrated Impact Assessment required?	
No significant implications in this		Policy and Communications	

area			
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COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

19. The Licensing and Public Safety Committee have the responsibility for fixing the Hackney Carriage fares for their area. The request from the trade is reasonable and has no significant adverse impact as it moderates an earlier increase.

JAMIE CARSON
DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE AND PLACES

There are no background papers to this report.

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